

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

Winter 2007 | Issue 11

Inside This Issue

- 2 From The Director
- 2 State, Judge Approve Plan
- 2 DPW Employee Honored
- 4 Students Mark Storm Drains

Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to prevent raw sewage overflows into our waterways, eliminate failing septic systems, and improve flood control and drainage. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in restoring the health of our streams and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Contact Info

Send letters to:

Indianapolis Clean Stream Team
Attn: Jodi Perras
151 N. Delaware St.
Suite 900
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Tel: 317-327-8720

Fax: 317-327-8699

Email: jperras@indygov.org



**SewerOverflow
Hotline:
327-1643**

ROUTE CHOSEN FOR INTERPLANT PIPELINE

Underground Pipe Will Allow Capture and Treatment of More Wet-Weather Flows

City engineers have chosen a route in Perry Township for the design of a 6.5-mile-long pipeline linking Indianapolis' two wastewater treatment plants. They've also decided to construct most of the pipeline by tunneling, which will minimize negative impacts along the route.

The city will host an open house from 4-8 p.m. on Feb. 20 at Southport High School to review the route and preliminary construction plans. Design will be completed in 2008 with construction expected in summer 2008. The pipeline must be fully operational by December 31, 2012.

When complete, the 12-foot diameter pipeline will enable the city to better manage wastewater flows between the Belmont and Southport advanced wastewater treatment plants, said John Morgan, engineering project manager for the Department of Public Works.

"Currently two-thirds of our flow goes to Belmont and one-third goes to Southport," Morgan said. "With the interplant connection we will have more flexibility to deliver a higher volume of flow to Southport, especially during wet weather when Belmont is overloaded."

When completed, 320 million gallons of wastewater could flow through the pipeline each day, with the highest volumes during and after wet weather.

The pipeline first will be used to manage flows between the plants and prevent sewer overflows into the White River near Southern Avenue. After the city finishes construction of the Fall Creek-White River Deep Tunnel in 2025, the interplant pipeline will convey up to 150 million gallons per day from the deep tunnel to the Southport treatment plant following wet weather.

During preliminary design planning, the city considered two routes for the interplant pipeline, as shown in the map on Page 3.

See "Interplant Pipeline," Page 3

NORTHSIDE FLOODING ISSUES ADDRESSED

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is improving drainage conditions in the Windcombe neighborhood near 78th Street east of College Avenue, which has endured flooded streets during storms for years.

Flooded pavement causes driving hazards at 78th Street and College Avenue and the western half of Windcombe Boulevard. When frozen, the flooded pavement is slick and potentially dangerous. Repeated freeze and thaw cycles have accelerated the pavement's deterioration.

According to Senior Project Manager Bill Bowman, the new drainage system in the Windcombe neighborhood will eliminate standing water and flooding in yards, streets and basements.

The drainage system includes a number of drainage inlets and pipes that should rapidly drain water off the pavement. The city will add a stormwater treatment system to a reconstructed outfall to remove oil, floating debris and suspended solids.

See "Northside Flooding," Page 3



DPW is working to eliminate standing water and flooding in yards, streets and basements in the Windcombe neighborhood near 78th Street and College Avenue.

From the Director...

Kumar Menon
Director of Public Works



This year, DPW will take another important step to improve water quality. Capturing and treating as much wastewater as possible will be the focus of a new contract for operating and maintaining our sewers and wastewater treatment plants. The current 10-year contract with United Water Services is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2007.

The new contract is an excellent opportunity to advance our water quality goals and Mayor Peterson's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program. During the next 20 years, the city will invest billions of dollars to improve our treatment plants and sewers and eliminate failing septic systems. The new contract will be designed to ensure that we are operating and maintaining our new facilities to provide the best water quality possible.

We have learned a lot in our 13-year experience with contract operation of our wastewater system and by looking at similar contract operations across the country and world. The current contract has achieved 100 percent compliance with our permits through economical operations, but we have higher goals for improving water quality and implementing our long-term plan for reducing raw sewage overflows.

The new contract will ensure we meet these priority goals:

- Collecting and treating as much wastewater as possible during storm events,
- Achieving the highest reliability and performance we can from all our facilities,
- Preventing and properly responding to any sanitary sewer overflows,
- Reducing odors and making progress toward a nuisance-free facility,
- Achieving a high level of participation by minority and women-owned businesses, and
- Keeping our rivers and streams clean.

Companies interested in competing for the contract will submit proposals early in 2007. The city's selection process will follow state and local procurement laws, which encourage an open, fair and competitive process. To view documents released during the procurement process, visit the DPW home page at www.indygov.org/dpw.

BRIEFS

DPW's Tom White Wins Award

A longtime DPW river monitor was honored by the Friends of the White River during their annual meeting on Jan. 10. Tom White, project manager for the DPW Office of Environmental Services, received the award for his sustained commitment to the annual White River Cleanup. Tom has been involved with the cleanups since they first began nearly 20 years ago. Each year, he helps organize the event and ensures that volunteers and DPW personnel are directed to sites along the banks that need to be cleaned up and restored.

"Tom's efforts have made a difference. Many of the spots that were continuously blighted by illegal dumping are gone, and there is a growing awareness that abuse of this resource is not something the community will ignore," said Kevin Hardie, executive director of the Friends of the White River.

If you are interested in learning more about the Friends of the White River or participating in the White River Cleanup, visit www.friendsofwhiteriver.org.



Tom White (right) accepts his award from Kevin Hardie, executive director of the Friends of the White River.

IDEM Approves Plan, Judge Signs Decree

U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton signed the consent decree between the City of Indianapolis and state and federal regulatory agencies on Dec. 19. On January 4, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management approved the city's long-term plan for controlling sewer overflows.

The consent decree requires the city to implement its long-term plan to reduce raw sewage overflows and sanitary sewer overflows. All projects must be completed and fully operational by Dec. 31, 2025.

In 2006, the city met the first deadlines in the decree, including full operation of the Lower Pagues Run tunnel. The city also issued bids for sewer separation projects at White River and Thompson Road and along Lick Creek. The city also met the 2006 deadline for construction bids on new gravity belt thickeners at the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Interplant Pipeline (continued from Page 1)

The city evaluated the two routes based upon cost, public impacts, operations and scheduling. The city also reviewed wastewater flow needs, soil conditions, and preferred methods of construction.

Route 2 was the preferred route for many reasons, chiefly because it will require the city to acquire fewer properties, Morgan said. Route 1 would have required taking all or parts of 145 properties, including 85-96 full property takings. Route 2, with tunneling, will require only easements along about 50 properties and no full takings are anticipated.

By tunneling 35 to 70 feet below ground for two-thirds of the route, the city also will avoid gas lines, electrical lines, existing sewers and other utilities in the area. Road and lane closures and traffic impacts will be minimal.

"We're deep enough that we're getting around the existing utilities," Morgan said. "Although we're installing a very high volume of pipe, the public won't see two thirds of it."

Had the project been built using traditional "open cut" construction, the city would have required a 100-foot construction corridor along the 6.5-mile route.

Crews are conducting surveying and collecting soil samples along the chosen route in preparation for final project design.

The advanced facilities plan was completed by Earth Tech, with support of many other local firms. The city plans to hold additional public meetings during the design to keep residents and businesses informed.



Two Routes Considered: Route 1 would have followed the White River along Harding Street southwest to Concord Street and Tibbs Avenue. Route 2, the chosen route, follows the Indiana Railroad southwest to Banta Road and Tibbs Avenue.

Northside Flooding (continued from Page 1)

When the project is complete, cleaner water will discharge into the roadside ditch at the southeast corner of 78th and College.

The \$219,310 Windcombe project is part of Mayor Peterson's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program and is funded by the Marion County stormwater utility fee. The design engineer is The Corradino Group; the construction contractor is Tramco Inc. Construction began in Fall 2006 and will continue through Spring 2007.

DPW is improving drainage systems in approximately 75 neighborhoods throughout Indianapolis through the end of 2008.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We all have a role to play in improving stormwater and drainage conditions. Residents can:

- **Maintain swales and ditches, including roadside ditches, by mowing and keeping them free of fill and other debris**
- **Work with neighbors to clear brush, debris and other blockages from waterways**
- **Use approved rock or broken concrete for erosion control for creeks that run through private property where needed**
- **Keep storm inlet grate tops clear of debris, trash and leaves**
- **Make sure driveway culverts are free of debris, in good repair and set to proper elevation so stormwater doesn't back up**
- **Report drainage issues to the Mayor's Action Center at (317) 327-4MAC (327-4622)**
- **Check downspouts and sump pumps for incorrect connections to the sanitary sewer system. Visit www.indycleanstreams.org to learn about the Correct Connect program.**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MARK STORM DRAINS IN LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

In November, high school students in Lawrence Township helped increase awareness that when stormwater flows into storm drains, it empties directly into streams – along with all the pollutants and waste it picks up along the way.

In conjunction with Mayor Peterson's City Hall for a Day, 20 Lawrence Early College High School students marked approximately 200 storm drains in neighborhoods in the Oaklandon area. City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) staff provided materials and guidance at the event.

"People often don't realize that what goes down storm drains isn't treated before flowing into our streams," said Richard Wise, field services manager at DPW's Office of Environmental Services. "Storm drain markers are a visual reminder that dumping paint, motor oil, trash and other items down storm drains can have a negative affect on water quality in our city and the communities downstream from us."

Everyone can help keep common pollutants out of stormwater by adopting these practices:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, and don't apply them prior to rainy weather.
- Clean up after your pets and dispose of pet waste properly by putting it in the trash.



Twenty students from Lawrence Early College High School, along with Principal Kay Harmless and teacher and parent volunteers, marked approximately 200 storm drains in Lawrence Township.

- Use a car wash instead of washing your car in your driveway.
 - Clear trash and debris from storm drains.
 - Dispose of paint, motor oil and cleaning products properly.
- Call the ToxDrop program at 327-4TOX for more information.

In 2007, DPW and the Indianapolis Clean Stream Team are coordinating storm drain marking events throughout Marion County. At least 15 to 20 volunteers are needed for each 3-4 hour event. If your group would like to participate, please contact Lauren Hammond at lhammond@indygov.org.

INDIANAPOLIS CLEAN STREAM TEAM

151 N. Delaware St., Suite 900
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

